Competition Commission

603. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the newly created Competition Commission as on date; and

(b) the functions of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Declaration of assets by candidates

604. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce compulsory declaration of the properties owned by candidates including their relatives seeking election for Parliament, State Legislatures or Municipal and Panchayati Raj bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, it is proposed to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Act, 2002 had made provisions for declaration of assets, etc. by the Members of Parliament based on the consensus arrived at in the all-party meetings held on 8.7.2002 and 2.8.2002. In view thereof and in the light of the directions contained in the Supreme Court's judgement dated 13.3.2003 in the Civil Appeal No. 7178 of 2001— Union of India vs. Association for Democratic Reforms and Another, the Election Commission of India has also issued an Order No. 3/ER/2003/ JS-II dated 27th March, 2003 relating to right to information of electors with respect to, *inter alia*, assets and liabilities of candidates contesting elections to Parliament and State Legislatures. As regards candidates contesting elections to local bodies, respective State Governments have jurisdiction over the matter.